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Borlingske Tidende

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The CIA Had the ØK Listed as a Communist Blind

The Danish-born Hans V. Toft reveals in his settlement with the CIA, that the American Intelligence Service had a strange impression of the Danish world-wide firm. Toft had to subject himself to test with a lie detector.

It is a strange impression the American Intelligence Service' largest agency, Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, has had of the Danish world-wide East Asiatic Company. The 55-year old, Danish-born Hans V. Toft, who during the past 16 years has been connected with the CIA where he has had a very important position, tells Borlingske Tidende's Washington correspondent, that the ØK had been listed as a Communist cover organization in the CIA's headquarters.

#### Toft Is Suspended

Hans V. Toft has been an American citizen since 1943. As a result of his connection with the CIA he has avoided any publicity about his person for years and has even as far as possible avoided any connection with Danes in the United States. His work for the intelligence organization was known by very few, even within the CIA, until his name the other day was pointed out in American papers' reports on a conflict, in which he is involved.

#### The ØK Affair

During a conversation about this case's details with Borlingske Tidende's correspondent in Washington, Hans Toft today mentioned the ØK affair. He said:

It all started in the mid-fifties, while Senator McCarthy's Communist persecution haunted the United States. In 1956 I was asked for a report on the Danish firm, the East Asiatic Company. I understood that the CIA had got the impression, that the ØK was a Communist cover organization.

I protested vehemently against this judgement. I have been trained in the East Asiatic Company together with my good friend President Mogens Pagh, and among my best friends are still some of the company's leading people, President Axel Kroendal and

resident Gunnar Euck from the Danish Medical and Chemical Company.

The CIA's statement shocked me, and I defended the ØK so vehemently as possible. I was asked if I was willing to subject myself to a test with a lie detector, and I made myself available for five very unpleasant hours.

They Did not Believe Him

After this, which I assumed had convinced the CIA about how crazy it was to believe that a firm, whose top leader was Prince Axel, could be a Communist organization, I heard nothing about the case for a long time. I continued to support the ØK, when the opportunity arose, and I was careful that the large jubilee publication, which was issued a few years ago, was received by leading CIA people.

But both the obviously wrong in the CIA's judgement and my defense of the ØK apparently passed over the head of the CIA. I got a proof of this, when I a few months ago asked for the East Asiatic Company's folder from the organization's main file. I saw to my astonishment, that in the CIA's report on the ØK, the company was still listed as a Communist cover organization. There was no trace of my defense of the firm and my explanation about its assignments and organization. Judging from this folder, the CIA had just the same impression of the East Asiatic Company as when McCarthy harried ten years ago.

The case exasperated me, and I brought a number of complaints to the highest quarters. I hope that I succeeded in making them realize the colossal blunder.

His Affair with Mysterious Points

The affair, which has attracted attention to Hans Tofte's connection with the CIA, still appears to be mysterious. Yesterday afternoon he was suspended from service. He will receive his full pay during the suspension, and he is formally available for the CIA's highest security officers, while the aspects of the affair are being examined.

The affair started on 23 July. Hans Tofte had sold his property in Washington's

On 23 July another CIA employee, Kenneth Slocum, came to look at the house. Tofte, who just recently has been employed with the CIA, did not know that Tofte was a "colleague". Slocum and his wife wanted to see the lower floor of the house.

According to a statement from the CIA, Slocum was shown round the house by Tofte's mother-in-law, and on this occasion Slocum discovered classified CIA material in one of the rooms, and he immediately reported this to the agency.

Hans Tofte wondered how Slocum got up in that room on the third floor, where the material was. He says, that it is true that he had classified documents there. He had brought them home to work on, which he does not think unusual for senior personnel with the CIA. He also claimed, that the documents were properly hidden, and that you could not happen to see them.

The CIA says that Slocum and a security officer returned to the house the following day and confiscated the documents.

Tofte says that Slocum and his companions lured his 86-year old mother-in-law to show the house and that the action was a rude invasion of privacy. Simultaneously with the action there disappeared Jewelleries at a value of 150,000 Danish kroner.

On the day the documents were removed Tofte was accompanied to the CIA headquarters in Langley near Washington, where he was informed about what had happened. The next few days he tried to get in touch with his superiors, but he did not succeed in that until five days later.

Kenneth Slocum denies having seen the jewelleries, and the CIA rejects that the disappearance of the jewelleries can have any connection with the action, when Tofte points out, that it seems to be conspicuous, that the police does not start to work on the case until eight days later.

#### Mutual Competition?

Observers in Washington say today that it is impossible as yet to see, if this affaire really in all, or if there are other things behind, possibly a mutual competition within the CIA.

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The contradictory statements, which are given partially by the CIA and partially by Hans Tofte might indicate, that Slocum did not happen to discover the documents, but that he knew beforehand that they were there and that he searched for them.

Neither the CIA, nor Hans Tofte will tell, which documents were involved; but it is assured that they include Tofte's personam *memoire* about his various experiences

Embarrassing for the CIA

Hans Tofte's efforts during World War II, when he was connected with the British Government's Service in the East, served in the American Army's parachute troops, his connection with Danish Resistance circles, his friendship with Ambassador Henrik Kauffmann, and his later activity with the CIA, which during the Korean war also led him to assignments in Korea and Japan, must be said to be noteworthy.

Today it is impossible to foresee, how the affair will develop. But it is a fact, that it is bad for the CIA, which has had several "embarrassing scandals", that also this affair has been brought to light.

Senator Eugene McCarthy from Minnesota, who is a member of the Senate's Foreign Committee and repeatedly has criticized the CIA's activity, has today demanded a thorough examination of the affair.

Regarding Hans Tofte, it is assumed that the affair has brought a decisive change in, possibly an end to, his brilliant career in the American intelligence service. Hans Tofte does not want to comment on this, but he says:

Promise me to say, that I am fine, am in good spirits, and am happy that I also have many, many friends.